



Acadia Paw Press

Greetings!

It's been a busy winter. Check out the contents of this newsletter to see what we've been up to. We are looking forward to seeing you this spring and sharing our natural and cultural heritage with your class!

Cynthia Ocel
Education Coordinator

Passamaquoddy Kit Now Online!

Acadia National Park collaborated with the Abbe Museum on this excellent classroom resource, which uses student-centered activities and tactile elements to introduce students to the richness of Passamaquoddy culture and history. From the website at www.nps.gov/acad/passkit, you can download background information; nine lesson plans featuring a timeline, artifacts, basketry, land resources and practices, stories, trading, epidemics, and politics; worksheets; and a purchasing list for kit objects. A physical traveling kit is available on loan from our education office. Call 207-288-8822 to schedule a time for your school.



Grants Offer New Opportunities

Last fall we received word that Friends of Acadia successfully raised a one-time challenge grant of \$15,000 through the National Park Foundation for the park's Junior Ranger program. The money will be used to supply a Junior Ranger booklet and patch for every student participating in the third-grade program this spring, and a copy of "RANGERS" activity and sticker book for their classroom. Grant funds will also allow us to reach schools that had previously not participated in the Junior Ranger program because of distance or finances. Schools from further downeast will have an opportunity to attend a special Junior Ranger Day at the Schoodic Education and Research Center.

There's more good news for education: L.L.Bean has committed \$250,000 over the next five years to the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC). Half of the grant is dedicated to funding research fellowships and the other half to education. Entitled "Kids in Acadia," the education portion of this generous donation will permit the hiring of six Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) teaching assistants annually, offer SEA student scholarships, assist new schools with bus transportation, and create summer field institutes for teachers based at the Schoodic campus. We will be updating teachers by e-mail as these grant initiatives develop.

National Park Service Websites

www.nps.gov/acad

The official website of Acadia National Park. Includes information on park resources, trip planning, and more.

www.nps.gov/acad/eeweb/enved.htm

The home of Acadia National Park's education program. Offers links to teacher, parent, and student resources; the Junior Ranger program; online activities for kids; and more.

www.nps.gov/learn

Serves all teachers and learners with national park curriculum-based learning tools, teaching resources, online activities, and Junior Ranger programs.

www.efieldtrips.org

Includes interactive virtual national park visits, trip journal worksheets, "ask an expert," and live web chats.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Acadia National Park encompasses more than 47,000 acres of granite-domed mountains, woodlands, lakes and ponds, and ocean shoreline, creating striking scenery and diverse habitats. This diverse environment combines with a rich cultural history to create unparalleled scientific, educational, and recreational opportunities in a spectacular setting.

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Bar Harbor, ME 04609

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Staff News

In January **Cynthia Ocel** attended the Maine Science Teachers Conference in Farmington (no snow there either!) and sat in on a well-done presentation by the sixth-grade students in Bob Chaplin's class at Emerson. March included a trip to New York City for a regional three-day National Park Service workshop on program assessment—see page 3 for more information about this project. Park staff offered two new workshops for educators this winter: the St. Croix 1604 Teacher Trunk and Invasive Plants.

Kate Petrie has been going full speed during the "quiet" season. Along with her regular duties, new projects include presenting geology and local history sessions for an adult education class, arranging third-grade classroom visits in Washington County for Junior Ranger programs, coordinating a new Junior Ranger Day format at Schoodic, recruiting interns, and designing a week-long summer teacher institute to take place at Schoodic in August. In April she will represent Acadia at the Maine Council for Social Studies Conference in Augusta. Stop by to see the park's exhibit if you are attending the event.

Donna Healy spent last fall fine-tuning our educator database with the help of the park's computer data specialist. We can now use e-mail to notify teachers in a more timely manner about upcoming

events and opportunities. Donna also has been working to obtain certification in several interpretive and educational competencies through the National Park Service. This spring she will be revising the Carroll Homestead wayside exhibit.

The new seasonal education ranger for the spring and fall is **Pete Berquist**. Pete worked at Acadia last summer as a Ridgerunner, orienting and educating hundreds of people on park trails. He spent this past fall as an intern with Kate Petrie at the Schoodic Education Adventure residential program and taught geology at COA. Pete earned a Master's degree in geology from Vanderbilt University, during which time he gained classroom teaching experience as a National Science Foundation Graduate Teaching Fellow. In addition, Pete is a certified Leave No Trace trainer and ropes course facilitator.

Sarah Snyder, a recent graduate of Vanderbilt University in geology, is our spring intern. Sarah is also an accomplished dancer and choreographer, having worked in schools and summer theaters. She is planning to begin a Master's program in science education this fall.

We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic and responsible people to intern during the school year. Please send perspective candidates our way!

Hands on the Land Network

Acadia National Park recently became a member of Hands on the Land, which is a national network of field classrooms designed to enhance learning. Membership will enable a wider teacher audience to benefit from our educational resources.

Visit the Hands on the Land website (www.handsontheland.org) for links to:

- 45 site profiles in the U.S. including National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and private education centers
- Hands-on science: environmental monitoring projects involving students in conjunction with land managers and scientists
- Educator resources: grade-specific lesson plans, Internet resources, supplemental curriculum, activity guides, etc.
- Hot topics such as invasive species, fire, and watersheds
- Glossary
- Student-created resources including poetry, essays, artwork, photos, and websites



New Resource for Persons With Limited Hearing

In an effort to meet the diverse needs of the public, park staff recently purchased personal assistive listening devices (ALDs) for persons who have limited hearing. During park programs, this system utilizes a transmitter to broadcast the ranger's voice directly into the ears of individuals equipped with any of the six receivers. These devices eliminate background noise, amplify sound, accentuate high frequencies, and increase sound-to-noise ratios, which results in improved hearing and understanding.

The ALDs are available by reservation for our curriculum-based and interpretive programming. This offering complements our existing ability to arrange certified sign language interpreters for persons who are deaf.

To reserve ALDs for Acadia's educational programs, please contact Cynthia Ocel at 207-288-8822. For more information about certified sign language interpreters or reserving units for public interpretive programs, call 207-288-3338.

Assessing Our Programs

Assessment is key to reaching our education program objectives and meeting your needs. It is also an avenue to attract funding and "sell" our programming to both internal and external customers. Using the right assessment tool will increase effectiveness in delivering education programs. To address this agency priority, sixteen parks including Acadia will participate in a multi-phase project. During the pilot test phase this spring,

we will implement new student and teacher instruments at the park. The fifth-grade Shoreline Discovery program has been chosen as the "guinea pig."

Eventually we hope this evaluation method can be incorporated into all of our programming, providing usable data that will help shape programming to better meet the mission of the park and the learning needs of your students.

Acadia Website Changes

The National Park Service is in the process of overhauling its web design. All 390 NPS sites, including Acadia, will be making changes to their websites in the months

ahead. The end result will be easier to navigate and consistent with other national parks. Look for new improvements and a new web address by next fall.

What's Happening at the Schoodic District?



Expanded Program Offerings for Grades 5-8

The Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) program is accepting reservations for the fall 2006 season. Dormitory options now accommodate up to 70 participants. Three- and four-day programs will run from mid-September through mid-November. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/acad/eeweb/programs/seaprogram.htm.

Upcoming Seminars

Saturday, May 20

Surveying Acadia's Seaweed and Herbivore Abundance

Ship Harbor, Acadia National Park

How do seaweeds respond to herbivore predation? Join Jeremy Long from Northeastern University for this workshop, which includes visiting study sites in the intertidal zone.

June (Date TBA)

Coastal Circulation Studies Around Schoodic Point

Schoodic Education and Research Center

Assist Jessica Muhlin from the University of Maine with "orange deployment" using GPS technology.

Saturday, July 15 (Time TBA)

Insects and Biodiversity

Schoodic Education and Research Center

Learn about bug collecting and biodiversity from Cassie Gibbs, retired University of Maine professor. This seminar is part of Acadia's annual Bio Blitz. The 2006 survey, which takes place from noon to noon on July 15-16, will focus on the Diptera species (flies).

For more information, contact Dr. Jim McKenna, SERC director, at 207-288-8733 or jim_mckenna@nps.gov or visit www.nps.gov/acad/serc.

Teacher Workshop

August 14-18, 2006

Integrating National Park Resources and Research

Into the Classroom Curriculum

Earn 4.5 CEUs studying the environment of the Schoodic Peninsula and Mount Desert Island. This week-long workshop, sponsored by the L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia program, is open to grade 3-12 teachers. Lodging, meals, on-site transportation, books, and materials are included in the registration fee. For more information, visit the website at www.nps.gov/acad/eeweb/programs/seateacher.htm.



Acadia National Park - 2006 Spring Programs



THIRD GRADE

What Do Rangers Do?

A one-hour, in-class presentation about the mission of the National Park Service and the different jobs of the people who work in the park. This is part of the student requirements to become a Junior Ranger, along with workbook activities and Junior Ranger Day at Acadia. *Available April 10 through May.*

Junior Ranger Day!

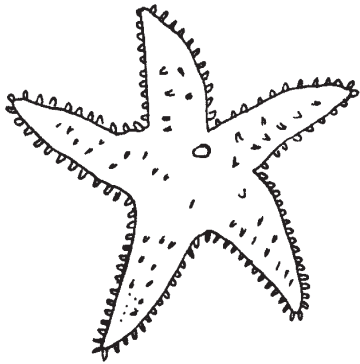
The final step in becoming a Junior Ranger! Students take the Junior Ranger pledge and participate in a park clean-up and resource project. If participating, please fill out the Junior Ranger Day volunteer form. *Available May to June 9.*



FOURTH GRADE

Carroll Homestead

Find out what it was like to live on Mount Desert Island 100 years ago. Includes a special tour of the Mountain House and a look at the daily life of a local family. *Available April 24 to June 9.*



FIFTH GRADE

Where in the World Is Tuzigoot?

Explore the history and mission of our country's diverse National Park System in this 90-minute classroom presentation that engages students through small group investigations. *Available April 10 through May.*

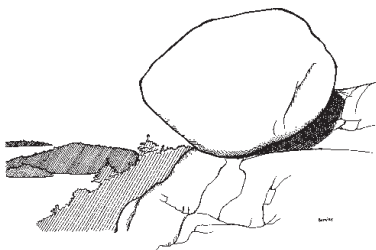
Shoreline Discovery

Who lives in the mudflats? What causes the tides? How are animals and plants adapted to life in a tidepool? How does the forest survive near the sea? Discover the answers to these and other coastal questions. *Available May – Wed. 3, Thurs. 4, Fri. 5, Fri. 19; June – Fri. 2, Mon. 5.*

SIXTH - EIGHTH GRADE

Fire and Ice - Discovering Acadia's Geologic Past

While hiking around Great Head, we will read the landscape and hear the story of Acadia's geologic past. See evidence of the local rock cycle, glacial features, and plate tectonics. Warning: Sections of the hiking trail are steep! This program works best as a review of basic geologic terms and processes studied in the classroom. *Available April 10 to June 9.*



Reservation deadline is March 24!

Acadia National Park - Program Reservation Form

Teacher Name(s) _____

School _____

School Phone # _____ # of Students _____

Please return by Wednesday, March 24.

Fax to 288-8831 or mail to Education Office

Acadia National Park

P.O. Box 177

Bar Harbor, ME 04609

To receive an e-mail when the next Paw Press is available online, please provide your current e-mail address:

_____.

*****Please make a separate copy of this form for each program you request!*****

Please check one

| | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | Third Grade – What Do Rangers Do? 60-minute classroom presentation for upcoming Junior Rangers. <i>Available dates: April 10 through May</i> | <i>PLEASE SPECIFY TIMES</i> |
| | Third Grade – Junior Ranger Day Please fill out Junior Ranger Day volunteer sheet with this form. Locations will vary. The location will be noted on your confirmation. <i>Available dates: May to June 9</i> | Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. |
| | Fourth Grade – Carroll Homestead <i>Available dates: April 24 to June 9</i> | Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. |
| | Fifth Grade – Where in the World is Tuzigoot? 90-minute classroom presentation. <i>Available dates: April 10 through May</i> | <i>PLEASE SPECIFY TIMES</i> |
| | Fifth Grade – Shoreline Discovery <i>Available dates: May – Wed. 3, Thurs. 4, Fri. 5, Fri. 19 June – Fri. 2, Mon. 5</i> | Time: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. |
| | Sixth through Eighth Grades – Fire and Ice Please circle the grade level participating: 6 7 8 <i>Available dates: April 10 to June 9</i> | Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. |
| First Choice Date | | |
| Second Choice Date | | |
| Third Choice Date | | |

Note: Please let us know if you have any conflicts with the scheduled program times.

• What pre-visit activities will you be doing with your students?

• Do you need a copy of the *Geology of Mount Desert Island* (Fire & Ice only)? Yes ____ No ____ Program educator's guides (except Tuzigoot and Shoreline) are available on the park's website at www.nps.gov/acad/eeweb/teacher.htm.

• Note below any special requests or needs, including accessibility or medical issues.

A confirmation letter will be mailed within one week of processing your program request. If there is a conflict with dates, you will be contacted by phone.

Office Use Only:

Confirmation sent:

Program date:

Please write names of chaperones and students or attach a class list.

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Volunteer Activity:
Students, chaperones, and teachers will be participating in Junior Ranger Day activities at Acadia National Park. Activities include cleaning up trash and brush and planting revegetation sites in the park.

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|------------------|-------|--------|
| Group Leader | _____ | (Date) |
| School Principal | _____ | (Date) |